

Jan's Weekly Update

with Dr Ganesh, Medical Director

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In my job as the Medical Director of our Trust, my primary focus is on issues that affect the quality of our patient care. Our greatest asset has always been and will continue to be our invaluable staff, who work tirelessly as a team to deliver best care to our patients and their families. In an effort to support our clinical team and provide evidence based quality of care to our patients in the health economy, I met with the Medical Director of the acute trust to arrange for a joint study day. We managed to work with the GP engagement Lead, who kindly took the idea forward and managed to organise a study day on sepsis. We decided to focus on sepsis because it is responsible for at least 44, 000 deaths annually in UK and accounts for 30-50% of episodes of inpatient deterioration.

The title was appropriate: “Sepsis as a clinical priority for the local health economy”. We were very fortunate to have the services of a prestigious national speaker Dr Ron Daniels, CEO of the UK sepsis trust. His presentation was well received and I am confident the learning from the day would help our clinicians to recognise sepsis early and save lives in our community.

Despite the sincere efforts from the organisers, attendance from our trust was unfortunately below expectation. I would encourage our clinicians to take advantage of these joint study days to help maintain and enhance their clinical skills and in return it will help them deliver the best evidence based care to our patients in Shropshire.

I had the opportunity to visit our Inter Disciplinary Team (IDT) based at Ludlow community hospital along with one of our Non-executive Director last week as part of our ‘board to ward’ visits. We both were thrilled to meet the enthusiastic team of District nurses, HCA’s and the therapists. This team provides an integrated seamless service to patients by working closely with the primary care in a demographically challenging part of Shropshire. They had mixed views towards their future base change to Craven Arms, but the majority felt that it will be an opportunity to work more closely with the ICS team as they are also based in the same building.

While discussing their supervision arrangements, we both had the privilege to hear from Chelsea Hodges, the HCA who kindly consented her story to be told to all our staff.

She had been to visit a Lady in her late forties as a routine as she has been unwell for nearly four weeks and has been treated with oral antibiotics and still was not getting better. When she saw her, she noticed that she had symptoms of high fever, increased pulse rate and had difficulty in obtaining her blood pressure. She immediately contacted one of the district nurses in the base who advised her to contact the GP, who in turn recognised that the patient needs immediate treatment and asked the HCA to call 999. She was blue lighted to A&E and was confirmed to have sepsis from which she has made a full recovery. The whole team were very proud of her prompt recognition of a deteriorating patient and the quick action she took to save a life. We both thanked Chelsea for the fantastic work she has done and left the team thinking how a simple intervention like raising the awareness of sepsis could lead to avoidable deaths.

As I drove back through the scenic country side of Shropshire, I reflected on the excellent duty of care provided by Chelsea Hodges. I felt proud of her achievements and considered the potential for such empowerment of all staff. Small changes can make big impacts upon organisations and the community as a whole. With such interests in mind, please do not forget to get your Flu jab today and protect yourself and the patients from the Flu for this winter. Have a restful weekend and enjoy the fireworks on Guy Fawkes day.

Until next time

Dr Ganesh
Medical Director

SEPSIS IN ADULTS IS A SERIOUS CONDITION

that can initially look like flu, gastroenteritis or a chest infection. Sepsis affects more than 250,000 people every year in the UK.

The UK Sepsis Trust registered charity number (England & Wales) 1158843

Seek medical help urgently if you develop any or one of the following:

Slurred speech or confusion
Extrême shivering or muscle pain
Passing no urine (in a day)
Severe breathlessness
It feels like you're going to die
Skin mottled or discoloured

JUST ASK
"COULD IT BE SEPSIS?"
IT'S A SIMPLE QUESTION, BUT IT COULD SAVE A LIFE.

ANY CHILD WHO:

- 1 Is breathing very fast
- 2 Has a 'fit' or convulsion
- 3 Looks mottled, bluish, or pale
- 4 Has a rash that does not fade when you press it
- 5 Is very lethargic or difficult to wake
- 6 Feels abnormally cold to touch

MIGHT HAVE SEPSIS
Call 999 and ask: could it be sepsis?

The UK Sepsis Trust registered charity number (England & Wales) 1158843

ANY CHILD UNDER 5 WHO:

- 1 Is not feeding
- 2 Is vomiting repeatedly
- 3 Hasn't had a wee or wet nappy for 12 hours

MIGHT HAVE SEPSIS
If you're worried they're deteriorating call 111 or see your GP

JUST ASK
"COULD IT BE SEPSIS?"
IT'S A SIMPLE QUESTION, BUT IT COULD SAVE A LIFE.

